

From: Cole Thompson
To: microsoft.atr
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Subject: Stronger remedies are needed

As a Senior Web Developer for Kaiser Permanente, one of the nations's largest healthcare providers, I am deeply concerned about the proposed settlement for the Microsoft antitrust case. For about the last five years, I have noticed that truly innovative technologies from small companies in the computing industry have tended to be withdrawn from the marketplace, apparently due to pressure or threats from Microsoft. During this same five years, the cost of Microsoft software has steadily increased, even allowing for inflation, while the cost of other companies' software (Sun Microsystems, Oracle, Sybase, Borland and many more) has almost without exception decreased quite dramatically. The costs of doing business as a software company have not increased during this time. The only reason Microsoft has bucked the overall trend toward less expensive software is that Microsoft enjoys monopoly power, and dictates prices to computer vendors. These arbitrarily increased costs ! are ultimately borne by American consumers. Consumers and businesses are damaged in just the same way that they would be if the cost of gasoline were doubled.

Thank you for your attention.

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